

Utah Seismic Safety Commission

Meeting
April 9, 1999

MINUTES

On April 9, 1999, a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission was held at the State Office Building Room 2112, Salt Lake City, Utah. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Walter Arabasz.

Members Present:

-M. Lee Allison	Utah Geological Survey
-Walter J. Arabasz	Chair/Seismic Safety Commission-U of U Seismograph Stations
-James S. Bailey	Allen and Bailey Engineers/Structural Engineers Association of Utah
-Don Bush	Utah House of Representatives
-James W. Golden	Utah Department of Transportation
-Peter W. McDonough	Questar/American Society of Civil Engineers
-Earl R. Morris	Utah Division of Comprehensive Emergency Management/DPS
-Matthias Mueller	Utah Division of Facilities Construction & Management
-Steve Pratt	Federal Emergency Management Agency (Ex-Officio)

Members Not Present:

Dan Bauer	Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
Kenneth Bullock	Utah League of Cities and Towns
Craig L. Dearden	Utah Department of Public Safety
Peter C. Knudson	Utah State Senate
Barry Smith	Western Mountain Region, American Institute of Architects
Randall G. Updike	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)

CEM Staff Present:

-Bob Carey	Mitigation & Planning Section, CEM
-Christopher Kramer	Public Information Officer, CEM
-John Rokich	Mitigation & Planning Section, CEM
-Amisha Stringfellow	Mitigation & Planning Section, CEM

UGS Staff Present:

-Gary Christenson	Applied Geology Section, Utah Geological Survey
-Tim J. Madden	Public Information Officer, Utah Geological Survey
-Barry Solomon	Applied Geology Section, Utah Geological Survey

Guests Present/Committee Members:

-Ann Becker	U of U Seismograph Stations/Awareness & Education Standing Committee
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- Carl Ericksson Salt Lake County Developmental Services/Engineering and Architecture Standing Committee
- Roger Evans SLC Building Services/Engineering and Architecture Standing Committee
- Joseph Howell Provo Emergency Management
- Ron Lynn Nevada Earthquake Safety Council
- Gary Madsen Utah State University/Awareness and Education Standing Committee
- Lee Siegel Salt Lake Tribune

❖ WELCOME/OVERVIEW

USSC Chairman Walter Arabasz welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

❖ APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Arabasz requested approval of the minutes from the meeting held on January 8, 1999. The minutes were unanimously approved with no corrections.

❖ INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Commission expressed its congratulations to Commissioner Jim Bailey, recently named "Engineer of the Year 1999" by the Utah Engineers Council.

Earl Morris, Utah Division of Comprehensive Emergency Management (CEM), reported that CEM received full funding for the coming fiscal year. This will allow CEM to maintain its present level of effort related to earthquake safety and preparedness. Additionally, CEM will be involved with aspects of emergency management related to terrorism. FEMA and the Department of Justice are designating CEM as the State Center for Domestic Preparedness in response to Weapons of Mass Destruction, and CEM will receive extra federal funds to carry out this program.

Lee Allison, Utah Geological Survey (UGS), explained proposed changes in funding for the Utah Geological Survey. The UGS requested, but did not receive, funds for another geologist in the Applied Geology Section to study geologic hazards. The UGS also tentatively lost from \$50,000 to \$65,000 in its annual budget due to a diversion of mineral lease funds; options for replacement funding are currently under study.

Roger Evans, Director of Building Services for Salt Lake City, reported on Senate Bill 110, Limit on Plan Check Fee. This bill imposes restrictions on fees charged by local governments for the review and approval of plans for commercial and residential buildings. Such fees will be limited to the lesser of the actual cost of performing the plan review or 65 percent of the amount charged for a building permit fee. The bill will go into effect on May

3.

Bob Carey, Mitigation & Planning Section, CEM, reported on activities conducted by the USSC Schools Subcommittee related to Earthquake Disaster Preparedness Month. In February, Governor Leavitt signed a proclamation designating April as Earthquake Disaster Preparedness Month. The Subcommittee compiled binders with relevant material to be used by all of the public and private schools throughout the state. The material was used to instruct students and staff in earthquake preparedness, including mitigation of non-structural hazards and the conduct of regular earthquake drills. After participating in the activities, schools will receive a certificate of completion and students will receive bookmarks. The Subcommittee has spent approximately \$10,000 on this project, \$8,000 received from CEM's Earthquake Program and \$2,000 from the Utah State PTA.

Walter Arabasz reported on the developments in federal funding for seismic instrumentation. Dr. Arabasz wrote a letter to Utah's Congressional Delegation to solicit their support of an appropriation request that would benefit earthquake safety in Utah. The request seeks funding for pilot projects to purchase and install modern seismographs for real-time earthquake monitoring in San Francisco, Seattle, and Salt Lake City. This may ultimately lead to a larger federal initiative for an Advanced National Seismic System that would include a full-scale, real-time earthquake information system in the Wasatch Front urban corridor.

Barry Solomon, Applied Geology Section, UGS, requested nominations for the Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC) Awards in Excellence. Nominations are due at the WSSPC office in mid-August, and should be submitted to Bob Carey, Barry Solomon, or Walter Arabasz before the July USSC meeting to allow time for preparation of an application to nominate a project endorsed by the USSC. State or local governmental agencies are eligible for the awards.

Mr. Solomon also reported on the USSC budget. An annual budget of \$4,500 is allocated by the legislature to pay for the operating expenses, but not personnel costs for staff support, of the USSC. The budget is administered by the UGS, and typically includes unspent funds carried forward from the prior year. Priorities for effective use of the USSC budget will be discussed at the July USSC meeting.

❖ UPDATE OF PRIOR BUSINESS

Steve Pratt, FEMA, reported on Hazards United States (HAZUS) and Project Impact. HAZUS is the FEMA software for estimating earthquake losses; Project Impact is the FEMA initiative to build disaster-resistant communities. A Utah HAZUS Data Users Group will be formed to update existing data. Salt Lake County, as a partner in this process, has agreed

to provide data from an earlier loss estimation tool called ATC 36. This data will be translated and updated for input into HAZUS. A server will then be identified on which Utah users may perform HAZUS analyses. Analytical results will be used to solicit local-government assistance for creation of mitigation projects and for investment in the prevention of damage to public infrastructure. Project Impact will be allocating \$15,000 of the \$300,000 budget that they receive from FEMA to help support the Utah HAZUS Data Users Group. Possible matching funds will enable the group to hire an intern.

Walter Arabasz reported on the task force for I-15 strong-motion instrumentation. Marv Halling will advance the activities of the task force approved by the Commission to promote implementation of a comprehensive program of I-15 strong-motion instrumentation.

Chris Kramer, CEM, reported on the USSC Web page (www.ussc.state.ut.us). This site will serve as a mechanism for information gathering and coherent communication of Commission activities. Its focus will be on assessing earthquake-related problems and offering solutions to the public. Commissioners were directed to provide Mr. Kramer with a brief biography and picture for inclusion on the Web page and, with Standing Committee chairpersons, were urged to provide input for Web page content.

❖ PORTLAND'S PROPOSED SEISMIC-UPGRADE LEGISLATION

James Bailey, Structural Engineers Association of Utah, discussed Portland's proposed seismic-upgrade legislation. The Structural Advisory Committee for the Uniform Building Code Commission is studying the legislation and its relevance to seismic-design requirements for existing buildings in Salt Lake City. The Committee wants to ensure that in areas where older buildings are extensively remodeled, such as the Gateway Project on the west side of Salt Lake City, adequate seismic upgrades are implemented. At present, the biggest challenge will be to form a committee with diverse representation of all parties that might be affected by any new legislation. After consensus-building regarding potential legislative actions to promote seismic upgrades of existing structures, Commissioner Bailey will provide proposals at the July 9 meeting for Commission endorsement.

❖ PERSPECTIVES FROM THE NEVADA SEISMIC SAFETY COUNCIL

Ron Lynn, Chair of the Nevada Seismic Safety Council, discussed perspectives and activities of the Council and their application to the USSC. The Council's main objective is to concentrate their efforts on community education and awareness of earthquake disaster preparedness. Mr. Lynn also described Council activities related to building codes and the establishment of guidelines for evaluating potential seismic hazards prior to construction.

To gain the support of the construction industry for consideration of seismic hazards, Mr. Lynn recommended starting with a small objective. As an example, Mr. Lynn recounted the Council's efforts to implement fault setbacks. The Council initially recommended incorporation of a five-foot setback in the building codes. Although small, this was implemented without significant cost and planted the seed of awareness in the construction community. Home builders supported the action because the Council was reasonable and easy to work with. The council increased the setback for buildings that were under governmental control, and will use these as examples to the private sector of effective management of seismic risk, with the ultimate goal of gradually increasing fault setbacks for all buildings.

To achieve their objectives, marketing became the first priority of the Council, a voluntary organization without funds allocated by the legislature. A key activity of the Council to prioritize work and assess needs during each year is an annual half-day Council meeting. This device will be used by the USSC at their July 9 meeting. Mr. Lynn's basic message is to get the word out and invest in worthy causes, bring a more diversified group of people into the organization, and educate the children and adults of Utah.

❖ NEXT MEETING

DATE: Friday, July 9, 1999
TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
PLACE: State Capitol Building, 303/305
Salt Lake City, UT

❖ ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.